

## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR (Arctic)

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REPORT

SUBJECT Naval and Air Observations, Including  
Sightings of Naval Vessels

DATE DISTR. 16 November 1959

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NO. PAGES 2

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REFERENCES

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

DATE OF  
INFO.PLACE &  
DATE ACQ.

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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1. Attachment No. 1, dated the end of June, contains the sightings of naval vessels [ ] probably T-301-class minesweepers/ near the Severo-Dvinskij light vessel. Each of the vessels had six to eight yellow paravanes about six feet high. Also included was the sighting of small naval vessels [ ] probably a LIBAU-class auxiliary communications vessel/ which had a box-shaped bridge, one smokestack on the deck, and a number of whip antennas both on and in front of the bridge. 50X1-HUM
2. Attachment No. 2, dated 29 June to 10 August, contains observations of aircraft at an airbase [ ] Sightings 50X1-HUM of the following naval vessels were also included:
  - a. A naval vessel at Mys Orlov [ ] N 67-13, E 41-17/ possibly a destroyer. 50X1-HUM
  - b. Small naval vessels [ ] probably T-301-class minesweepers/ and one naval vessel at the [ ] naval shipyard. 50X1-HUM
  - c. Five identical naval vessels [ ] at the [ ] shipyards. 50X1-HUM
  - d. A naval vessel [ ] possibly a LIBAU-class auxiliary communications vessel/ which seemed to be engaged in patrol duty at the [ ] shipyards. 50X1-HUM
3. Attachment No. 3, dated 14 July to 8 August, contains sightings of six to eight conventional fighter-like and passenger aircraft at the [ ] Kegostrov Airfield and of jet aircraft and seaplane activity [ ] 50X1-HUM

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STATE	X ARMY	# X NAVY	# X AIR	# X FBI	AEC			
(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")								

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Sightings of the following naval vessels were also included:

- a. Four or five landing vessels [redacted] near the inspection station on the Dvina River. 50X1-HUM
- b. About 20 small naval vessels which resembled ARTILLERIST-class submarine chasers at the naval pier at Solombala [N 64-35, E 40-31].
- c. A submarine and two large naval vessels [redacted] which were said to resemble SKORYY-class destroyers southwest of Ostrov Moseyev [N 64-34, E 40-31]. 50X1-HUM
- d. Attachment No. 4, dated 13 to 19 August, contains observations of Soviet naval vessel maneuvers south of Svyatoy Nos [N 67-55, E 48-38], commercial vessels containing military vehicles and other military equipment [redacted] and small naval vessels which were thought to be patrol boats or small minesweepers [redacted]. It appeared that the masts of these vessels were undergoing repair. 50X1-HUM

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SUBJECT: Port Report - Archangel

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DATE OF REPORT: 8 October 1959

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1. NAVAL: a. On 29 June a naval vessel lay near Cape Vorlov.

Description: Flush decks, one smokestack and one mast.

b. At the shipyards (naval) in Archangel were several small naval vessels.

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[redacted] they were M/S'.

c. At the shipyards a vessel at anchor was also observed.

Description: There were two guns in two turrets on the fore deck, one smokestack, two guns in two turrets on the after deck.

d. Five other naval vessels were observed at the Yards.

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Description: All of the ships seemed to be identical. They were flush decked, with one smokestack and one gun on the fore deck.

e. A couple of trawlers were also observed, some commercial vessels and a number of expeditionary vessels were seen at the Yards. The expeditionary

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[redacted]

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ships appeared to be very well kept.

f. On the beddings at the Yards were about ten or twelve small vessels.

Their length was about thirty feet. The vessels appeared to have been constructed for two propellers.

g. Inside of Piers 5 and 7, a naval vessel about eighty feet long was observed several times. This ship seemed to be engaged in patrol duty. [redacted]

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2. AIRCRAFT: a. On 3 July [redacted] five  
from airplanes condense strips/were observed in a northwesterly direction. The planes flew quite high. It was not possible to say where the planes came from or in which direction they disappeared.

b. At the airbase in Archangel about fifteen aircraft of various types were observed, both double-deckers and smaller two-engined craft.

3. THE HARBOR: a. Near Piers 9 and 10 it appeared that work was in progress to lengthen the pier in an easterly direction. 50X1-HUM

b. On 10 August dredging operations went on outside Piers 16 and 17.

4.

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[redacted]

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5. THE BLACK MARKET: There was no difficulty in selling clothes for a high price. No was there any difficulty in exchanging foreign currency at the club.
6. ARRESTS: Outside the club was a guard, and anyone who was obviously drunk was arrested and put in jail for the night. The next morning, the arrestees were released after paying forty roubles in fines.

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1. NAVAL: Just off Dvina Lightship, at the end of June, a number of naval vessels were observed sailing seawards in line ahead.

Description: The vessels were identical and were assumed

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to be mine-sweepers. T-301 class, mine-sweepers.

The vessels

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had high forecastles, few guns on the forecastle, a box-shaped bridge, a smokestack that stood on a casing extending from the bridge aft to a low after-deck. All of the vessels had six or eight paravane-like objects standing vertically on the after-deck. The objects were painted yellow, were about six feet long, and had the form of a torpedo, with one large fin on the after side.

At the mouth of the Dvina a small naval vessel was seen on its way seaward.

Description: She had a box-shaped bridge and

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one smokestack that stood on the deck. The ship also had a number of whip-

antennas placed both on the bridge and in front of it.

Comment: probably a LIAU - class auxiliary communication ship ]  
2. ARCHANGEL: [ an unusually large number of uniformed naval

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personnel in the city at the end of June.

3. SHIPPING: In the harbor at Archangel, six or eight white-painted wooden sloops were observed. The sloops were as large as whaleboats, had a high

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[REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
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forecastle with a row of port-holes, a bridge with the mast on the stern side, radar antenna of the usual type on the mast, a casing and one smokestack on the casing.

[REDACTED] all Soviet vessels that belonged in the northern 50X1-HUM area had a lantern arrangement on the mast which consisted of a red lantern on each side of the arm and a white lantern in the top.

[REDACTED] 50X1-HUM

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DATE OF REPORT: 13 October 1959

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1. NAVAL: a. On 14 July, four or five landing vessels were seen near the inspection station on the Dvina River, on their way up the river. The vessels [redacted] proceeded at a speed of about twelve or [redacted] 50X1-HUM thirteen knots. The vessels were typical landing boats with a bow-portal that could be lowered and the bridge over the engine room aft. about b. On 31 July, twenty identical small naval vessels were seen at the naval pier at Solombala.

Description: They were flush deckers with the bridge somewhat forward of midships, and one smokestack that stood on the deck. [redacted]

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[redacted] the ARTILLERIST class [redacted] most resembled the vessels [redacted] observed. [redacted]

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- c. On that same day, two large naval vessels and a submarine lying at anchor outside of Archangel, southwest of Mosyev Island, were observed.

Description: The two naval vessels were identical. [redacted]

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[redacted] The vessels had a raised forecastle with the break to the main deck beside the bridge structure. There was a gun turret on the forecastle, a bridge with the director at the top, a mast, a smokestack, a

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four-barreled torpedo gun, a small mast, a smokestack, a four-barreled torpedo gun and a gun turret on the after deck. [redacted] the SKORY type of destroyer [redacted]

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The submarine lay so far away that [redacted] unable to give a perpendicular particularly good description of it. The tower appeared to be [redacted] on both forward and after sides and flat on the top. [redacted]

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2. AIRCRAFT ACTIVITY: a. At Kyegostrov Airbase, six to eight fighter-like propeller airplanes, and passenger planes of the DAKOTA type were observed. No jet-propelled aircraft were seen at Kyegostrov.

b. Jet-planes were constantly seen in the air. The aircraft were very much like SABRE jets, as they were single-engined jet-planes with the engine in the plane-body, back-angled wings, and a very high, sharply back-angled tail-fin.

c. Two-engined flying-boats were seen in the air, once in a while, and always flying north.

3. UNUSUAL ACTIVITY: On 8 August [redacted]

[redacted] very powerful booming noises were heard at intervals of about 50X1-HUM one-half minute. No activity was observed in the vicinity. 50X1-HUM

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1. NAVAL: a) [ ] naval vessels were seen on shooting maneuvers circa ten nautical miles south of Sviatoi Nos. The maneuvers were observed from a very great distance [ ]

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One of the naval vessels passed [ ] on a course southward in the White Sea. The vessel proceeded at a speed measured [ ] at 34 knots. [ ]

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b) At the naval pier in Archangel were several small naval vessels. The vessels [ ] were very small, being either patrol boats or small minesweepers. [ ]

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[ ] almost all of the vessels had scaffolding around the masts. It appeared that the masts were being remodeled, and would have greater dimensions.

2. SHIPPING: On 13 August and 15 August two large commercial vessels that sailed out of the river were observed [ ]

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[ ] Both of the ships were loaded with military vehicles and other military equipment. On the deck, among other things, was seen a type of car that strongly resembled a jeep. Both of the ships were about 10,000 tons.

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They were not heavily loaded. The one ship was a very modern motor-ship with the engines midships.

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